

NOVEMBER, 1948

# Florida WILDLIFE



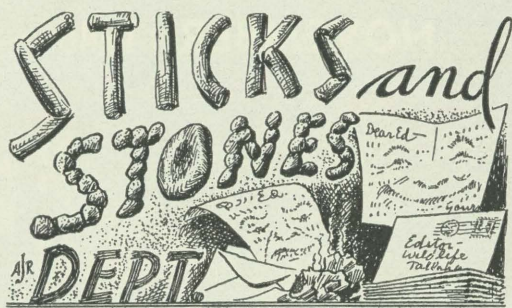
PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE FLORIDA GAME  
AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

FLORIDA STATE NEWS



HUNTING PROSPECTS  
for  
1948-49





VOL. 2, NO. 6

Florida  
**WILDLIFE**

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE FLORIDA GAME  
AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

NOVEMBER, 1948

For the  
Conservation, Restoration, Protection,  
of Our Game and Fish

★

Published monthly by the  
FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION  
Tallahassee, Florida

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## FLORIDA FAN

Dear Sir:

Last week while in your lovely state, I ran across some copies of your *Florida Wildlife* magazine. As I am in the sporting and fishing business, I placed the copies in my office to show to all the fishermen as they come in. The magazine certainly caused some talk and interest.

You see, like all the fine and lovely southern states, we have some fine fishing too. But when it comes to your bass fishing as to size, you have us—no fooling..

Just showing those magazines to my customers has started a party over to your lakes next week, and when they get back more will go.

I wonder if you could send me more copies of that wonderful *Florida Wildlife*? I can assure you it will give you plenty of advertisement, and best of all, make plenty of my customers happy just to see those big bass and read about them.

THOMAS C. KNAEBEL,  
New Orleans, Louisiana

(It's a trade. We'll send you copies  
of FLORIDA WILDLIFE; you send us  
fishermen. ED.)

## WE BLUSH WITH PRIDE

Dear Sir:

You are to be complimented on such a fine magazine as FLORIDA WILDLIFE.

I have subscriptions with two national outdoor magazines but as long as FLORIDA WILDLIFE keeps on comin' I shall never subscribe to such sorry magazines again. In my opinion, you have better writers, editors, administrative staff, better photographers, much more emphasis on conservation, and a much better magazine on the whole.

A READER,  
Tampa, Florida

(I'm sorry such a fine booster failed to sign his name.—Ed.)

## The Cover

The earnest young nimrod is 2½-year-old Nicholas Curtis Weeks II of Tallahassee. His hunting partner is an eager beagle named Pea-creek. — Photo by C. H. Anderson.



It looks like Florida nimrods are headed for another banner year in the woods.



# HUNTING PROSPECTS FOR 1948-1949

**I**N SPITE of a couple of would-be hurricanes and an unusual amount of high water, Florida's 1948-49 hunting prospects look brighter than they have in years.

A statewide survey of game conditions by Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission wardens and biologists shows that wildlife stocks throughout the state are improving or at least holding their own. There has been no apparent decline in any domestic species. Conversely, at least one species—the wild turkey—has shown a distinct surge upward in virtually every section of the state. There is strong evidence that this year's turkey hatch was the biggest and most successful in many, many years. One expert indicated Florida's turkey population may have jumped as much as 25 percent this year.

Squirrel, too, seem to be on the increase all over the state. Virtually the entire north half of Florida boasts a plentiful supply of bush-tails.

Last year's hurricane knocked central and southwest Florida out of what looked like the best quail prospects in a decade. However, the two blows this year did minor damage, and bobwhite crops appear to be climbing back steadily.

Deer stocks have been steadily increasing over the past three years, particularly in well-protected areas such as the Ocala Forest and the Eglin Field Preserve. Biologists estimate we now have about 32,000 whitetails, and they predict a legal kill of well over 6,000 this year.

It's hard to say which of the state's five conservation districts will afford the best all-round hunting. Availability of hunting area and the size and number of game concentrations have to be taken into consideration. For instance, the Third District of northwest Florida appears to have the greatest game supply; however, the majority of its really top-flight game range is posted. The same applies to central Florida's Fifth District.

Due to a relaxing of rigid "no hunting" rules by cattlemen, the southwestern part of the state should afford

more shooting area, and game prospects look good for the northern half of the First District. However, the southern tier of counties is still recovering from last year's hurricanes and high waters.

The Second District has bountiful supply of game, but much of it is concentrated in rough, hard-to-hunt country. As a district, though, it will probably offer the best quail hunting in the state.

The Fourth District has had a rough time of it, but even there game populations seem to be on the upswing.

As a service to the sportsmen of the state, here is FLORIDA WILDLIFE'S district-by-district summary of this season's hunting outlook.

## FIRST DISTRICT

**G**ENERALLY speaking the game outlook in this Southwest Florida district is considerably better than last year. Winds and high waters in the district's southern tier did untold damage last fall. In Glades, Charlotte, Lee and Hendry counties quail, in particular, are still feeling the effects of the 1947 hurricane. Other species are still feeling the effects of the 1947 hurricane. Other species of game, however, have made a remarkable comeback, and latest reports indicate that even the quail picture isn't too dismal.

The upper two-thirds of the district appears to be sitting pretty from a game standpoint. Hardee, Highlands, Polk and Pasco all had first rate quail season last year, and all look to as good or better one this year. Wardens in the area say Polk county has the best quail and squirrel prospects in four years. Pasco apparently has one of its biggest quail crops in many years, and Hillsborough, Highlands, Hardee and Manatee each have held their own, which means cracker-jack quail and squirrel hunting.

Following what appears to be a statewide trend turkey crops have also showed a steady increase in the First District. Some of the biggest flocks in the state can be



found in hurricane-hit Glades county—but largely on posted land. One officer estimated Lee county's turkey crop had increased 50 percent. Charlotte, Hendry, Highlands, Hillsborough, Polk and Pasco counties also look like good bets for above-the-average gobbler shooting.

Two species that escaped last year's hurricane with little damage were squirrel and deer, and both seem to have held up well this year. Squirrel hunting should be generally good throughout most of the central and northern portions of the district. Only five counties in the district offer any mentionable deer hunting. They are Hernando, Highlands, Charlotte, Hendry and Lee. Deer stocks have climbed steadily in Lee county over the past few years, and right now it probably has more to offer the deer hunter than any other county in the district. However, its neighbors to the north and east, Charlotte and Hendry will afford fair stalking.

Sarasota and Pinellas counties are sort of weak sisters in the First District's game lineup. Sarasota has some fair quail crops, but little else. Pinellas has a great many quail for its area, but most of them are in cities, suburban areas and citrus groves where shooting is not permitted.

All in all, however, southwest Florida appears headed for a successful season.

## SECOND DISTRICT

THE Second District comprising 16 counties in the north central part of the state has always been considered good hunting territory and this year will be no exception. There are a few spotty counties, but the majority of the district is above par. The Second has always been noted for its quail and squirrel, and this year both

species have shown a decided increase. Officers report that at least 8 of the 16 counties have an abundant quail crop. Putnam, Suwannee and Union counties all show even better bob-

## Hunting Regulations

Here is a resume of general hunting regulations for 1948-49.

Taking of doe deer and bucks with horns less than five inches in length, prohibited. Gobbler turkeys ONLY may be taken in First, Second and Fifth Districts. Sale of game is prohibited.

Daily shooting hours for domestic game, one-half hour before sunrise to sunset; shooting hours for migratory waterfowl, one-half hour before sunrise to one hour before sunset except on opening day, when shooting begins at 12 o'clock noon; for dove, 12 o'clock noon to sunset.

The day's bag is—Buck deer, one; turkey, two; quail, 12; cat squirrels, 12; fox squirrels, 3; ducks, 4; geese (canada only), 1; coot, 15; dove, 10. Possession limit is two days' bag on ducks and all domestic game. Geese, dove and coot limited to one day's bag.

These hunting methods are prohibited: use of shotgun larger than 10 gauge or with more than three-shell capacity in magazine and chamber combined (gun may be plugged to limit capacity), or fired other than from shoulder; shooting birds over baited area; shooting quail on ground; hunting turkey with dog; hunting or killing swimming deer; use of artificial light, fire, net trap, snare, poison, salt-lick or of airplane, automobile, powerboat, sailboat, boat or craft under sail or towed by any aforementioned devices.

Discharge of firearms upon, from and across State Road 27 (Tamiami Trail), State Road 26, State Road 25 (in Palm Beach County), and highways of Monroe county, prohibited.

white stocks than last year, when shooting was considered fairly good. Quail hunting will continue to be good in Alachua, Bradford, Clay, Columbia and Madison. There should be excel-

lent squirrel shooting in every county with the probable exception of Duval and Nassau, where it will be only fair.

The district has four counties which are strong on turkey. Some of the best gobbler hunting in the state will be found in the coastal woodlands of Levy, Dixie and Taylor counties. Biologists also report that, surprisingly enough, Duval county is well stocked with turkeys. Nassau county, too, boasts a fair supply of turkeys. Gobbler hunting over the remainder of the district will be sparse. In fact stocks are so low in Alachua, Bradford, Clay, Union and parts of Columbia and Baker counties that the turkey season will remain closed.

Deer populations are also concentrated in a comparatively few counties. Good stalking will be found only in Levy, Dixie, Taylor, Columbia and Nassau counties. Some of the district's best deer hunting will probably be found again in the Gulf Coast counties. Columbia and Nassau have shown noticeable increases in white-tails, but hunting pressure will probably be heavier in these areas.

The same counties closed to turkey will also be closed to deer. Gilchrist too, will have no deer season this year. A few bucks may be found in Duval and Lafayette, but generally prospects will be only mediocre.

In an overall summary, quail and squirrel will be the hunter's best bets in the Second Districts. Turkey and deer shooting is promising, but considerably more concentrated.

## THIRD DISTRICT

LAST year the Third District had perhaps the best supply of game in the state, and despite heavy summer and fall rains it looks like a good bet to hang onto its reputation this year.

	ALACHUA	BAKER	BAY	BRADFORD	BREYARD	BROWARD	CALHOUN	CHARLOTTE	CITRUS	CLAY	COLLIER	COLUMBIA	DADE	DE SOTO	DIXIE	DUVAL	ESCAMBIA	FLAGLER	FRANKLIN	GADSDEN	GILCHRIST	GLADES	GULF	HAMILTON	HARDEE	HENDRY	HERNANDO	HIGHLANDS	HILLSBOROUGH	HOLMES
DEER	X	F	S	X	F	F	S	F	F	X	P	P	F	S	P	F	S	F	S	S	X	S	S	S	S	F	F	F	S	O
SQUIRRELS	P	F	P	P	F	S	P	F	F	P	F	P	S	F	P	S	P	S	P	F	P	F	F	P	F	F	P	F	S	P
QUAIL	P	F	F	P	P	F	P	F	F	P	S	P	F	F	F	F	F	P	S	F	F	F	S	S	P	F	F	P	P	P
TURKEYS	X	S	S	X	P	O	F	F	F	X	F	O	F	S	P	P	F	F	S	S	S	P	S	O	S	F	O	F	F	S

P-Plentiful; F-Fair; S-Scarce; O-None; X-Closed.



The best section, unfortunately, will be of least benefit to the average hunter. As in the past, the so-called "plantation" sections of Leon and Jefferson counties are literally lousy with all species of game—particularly quail. However, this territory is practically one hundred percent posted against public hunting. Northwest Florida hunters, though, will still be able to get their money's worth in other sections of the district. Perhaps the best deer hunting in the South lies in this district. The old Choctawhatchee Forest, now known as the Eglin Field Preserve, stacks up with some of the best northern states as a deer-hunters' mecca. Last year slightly over 4,000 nimrods accounted for 1,100 legal bucks during a 47-day controlled hunt. That's an average that would stand out in any state, and Chief Wildlife Officer Francis Villar says prospects are even better this year. Outside of the forest the "one-gallus" deer hunter's best chances lie in Liberty and Wakulla counties.

As in nearly every other district, turkeys have also shown a marked increase. Villar says the northern half of Escambia county has more turkeys "than ever before in the history of the county." Washington, Calhoun, Liberty and Wakulla counties also have good concentrations of turkey, though not to the extent of some of the central and eastern counties and the gulf hammock region.

Quail hunting will be better than average in practically every county with the exception of Gulf and Franklin, and particularly good in Holmes and Calhoun. Like the Second District, the Third boasts fine squirrel shooting in virtually every county. Even the fox squirrels have staged a decided comeback.

The Third District may not be the best "hunting" territory for the average sportsman, but with its heavy concentrations in Leon and Jefferson counties it can at least voice a claim

## Hunting Dates

**FIRST DISTRICT**—Buck deer, Nov. 24-Jan. 5. Gobbler turkeys, quail, squirrel and marsh hens, Nov. 24-Feb. 1. First five days open on all species—Mondays and Tuesdays closed thereafter.

**SECOND DISTRICT** — Buck deer, Nov. 24-Jan. 5. Gobbler turkeys, quail, squirrel, and marsh hens (except Duval county), Nov. 24-Feb. 1. First five days open on all species—Monday and Tuesdays closed thereafter. Alachua, Bradford, Clay and Union counties, and that part of Baker and Columbia counties south of U. S. Highway No. 90 from Jacksonville to Lake City, and that part of Columbia and Suwannee counties south and east of State Road No. 247 from Lake City to Suwannee closed to deer and turkey. Gilchrist county closed to deer only.

**THIRD DISTRICT**—Buck deer, Nov. 24-Jan. 5. Turkey, quail, squirrel and marsh hen, Nov. 24-Feb. 1. First five days open on deer, turkey and marsh hen—Monday and Tuesday closed thereafter. Quail and squirrel hunting permitted every day.

**FOURTH DISTRICT** — Buck deer, Nov. 24-Jan. 5. Gobbler turkeys, quail, squirrel, and marsh hen, Nov. 24-Feb. 1. First five days open on all species—Monday and Tuesday closed thereafter.

**FIFTH DISTRICT**—Buck deer, Nov. 24-Jan. 5. Turkey, quail, squirrel and marsh hen (except St. Johns county), Nov. 24-Feb. 1. First five days open on all species—Monday and Tuesday closed thereafter.

to the best "game" district.

### FOURTH DISTRICT

**A**LTHOUGH the Fourth District has taken many a beating from winds and high water during the last few years, the wildlife "warehouse"

is slowly but surely returning to normal. As a result, hunting generally will be improved over that of last year.

Indian River County has improved to the extent that you'll have fair luck no matter if your weakness is deer, turkey, quail or squirrel. Quail hunting will probably be below par in Okeechobee and St. Lucie counties. However, both areas are boasting more deer and turkey than last year, and squirrel hunting should be tops. Your quail and squirrel hunting will succeed in Martin county and deer and turkey prospects are slightly better than last season even though both are still listed on the scarce side of the ledger. Quail hunting is about all that will interest you in Palm Beach county. The rest of the game is still scarce. Your deer and quail hunting luck will be fair in Broward county but don't count on getting any turkeys because they simply cannot be found.

The quail crop has improved in Dade county and your luck should be fair with deer and turkey. You'll find no squirrel.

Collier county, of course, has long been noted for its hunting. This year it will have plenty of deer along with good stocks of turkey and squirrel. Quail hunting will be unsatisfactory. There'll be good deer and turkey hunting on the mainland section of Monroe county—but very little else.

All in all Fourth District will offer the hunter considerably more than it did last year.

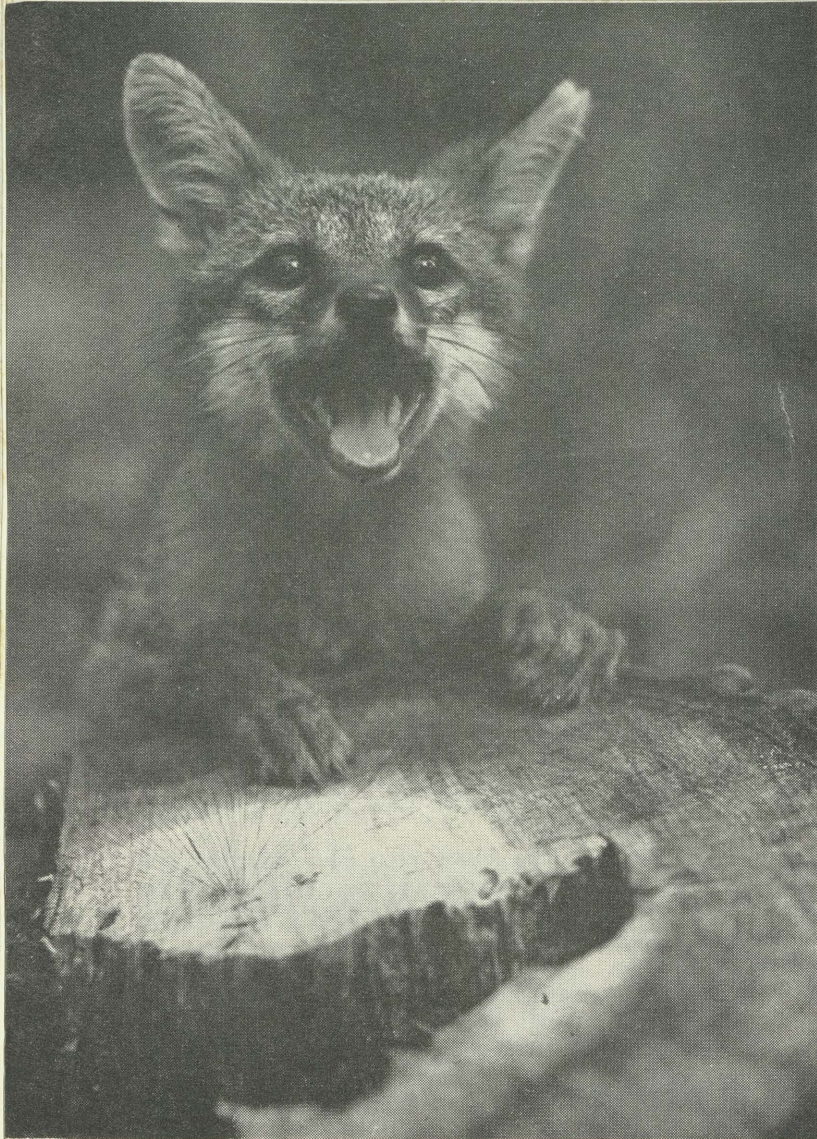
### FIFTH DISTRICT

**T**HE general opinion seems to be that the central Florida region which makes up the Fifth District is better populated with game than last year. Some counties claim the best

(Continued Page 16)

INDIAN RIVER	JACKSON	JEFFERSON	LAFAYETTE	LAKE	LEE	LEON	LEVY	LIBERTY	MADISON	MANATEE	MARION	MARTIN	MONROE	NASSAU	OKALOOSA	OKEECHOBEE	ORANGE	OSCEOLA	PALM BEACH	PASCO	PINELLAS	POLK	PUTNAM	ST. JOHNS	ST. LUCIE	SANTA ROSA	SARASOTA	SEMINOLE	SUMTER	SUWANNEE	TAYLOR	UNION	VOLUSIA	WAKULLA	WALTON	WASHINGTON
F	S	P	F	F	P	P	P	F	O	S	P	S	P	P	P	F	P	P	S	S	O	S	S	F	F	P	S	P	F	O	P	X	F	F	P	O
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F	S	P	S	S	F	P	P	F	O	S	F	S	S	F	S	F	P	P	S	F	O	F	S	P	F	S	S	P	P	O	P	X	F	F	S	F





The fox has always been a prime target in predator control movements, yet there is very little evidence to support his being in such a classification.

# Is PREDATOR CONTROL *Effective?*

by DR. BENJAMIN LEAVITT

The author, a professor of biology at the University of Florida, gives sportsmen some food for thought on the subject.

**T**HE predator's position in the scheme of nature is always a controversial subject among sportsmen, biologists and others interested in wildlife.

All species which naturally prey upon those which man himself desires to hunt, are regarded by some as blackguards whose total extinction would seem desirable. Misguided efforts have been bent toward this direction in a number of States through all-out predator control programs, bounty systems, and other ill-advised and unsuccessful efforts, many of which have been attempted and abandoned.

Let's examine the predator-game relationship and see if we can determine what the proper position is. As an approach, we must consider three categories of lands.

First, let's consider an area of primeval land free from the influence

of man. It supports an abundance of both game and predators. Nature is in a balanced condition and each species maintains its proper numerical abundance through adaptations which have evolved over periods of thousands of years. One large species of bird, capable of self-defense and subject to little predation, may maintain its number at the maximum level which the food supply and other factors will accommodate even though it lays but two eggs a year. Another small bird may maintain itself in abundance by laying 10 or 15 eggs in a clutch. Part of the population normally serves as food for predators and yet, by its heavy rate of reproduction, a high numerical level of adults is adequately provided for. The wildlife in a primeval habitat is so attuned by its interdependencies and adaptations that all species, predator

or preyed upon, sustain themselves and perpetuate their generations. It is unreasonable for man to assume that the selection and extinction of any species from such an area could be of benefit. They are normally elastic enough to enable themselves to recuperate, in a period of time, from minor and temporary losses from any source.

**S**ECOND, let's consider an area which has been subjected to the influence of man as most of our so-called wild lands in Florida have, either through lumbering operations, cattle raising, or some other economic or agricultural pursuit. Here the balance has been upset and it is here that we are most concerned over the proper place of the predator. It is well to bear in mind that the population of game is now an artificial and



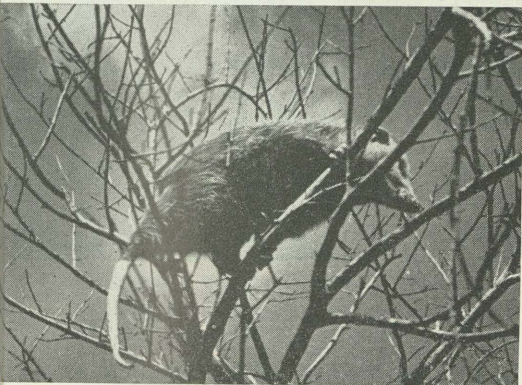
often even an accidental one. I might add, in many cases, a more abundant one! However, even here many of the normal interdependencies between species are struggling to maintain themselves. In such an area some predator control may be judiciously—not indiscriminately—exercised. The cardinal rule to follow is one of evidence. Where the “sign” in the woods indicates to a competent observer that a predatory species is too abundant, some reduction in its numbers may more nearly restore the balance already disturbed. But obviously, what applies in one area does not apply in another and any program directed toward the indiscriminate slaughter of any natural species wherever it is found, is a foolhardy one. The term “predator” is not a definitive one and accurate analyses of food habits indicate that many so-called predators on game animals are not normally preda-

duce. To confine our discussion to the consideration of the role of the predator it seems reasonable that some protection of the desired species may be desirable. The important thing to bear in mind under such circumstances, however, is that when controlling one species one must also be prepared to control another whose abundance may increase as the influence of the predatory species is removed. The foxes, owls and hawks may become a problem if the rodent population is reduced; conversely if the former are reduced, the latter, free of a normal control factor, may in turn become a problem. This trend of thought, if carried further, will lead us to the conclusion that we are dealing with a live problem of adjustment and inter-relationships between all the factors in the environment, the disturbance of any one of which may bring about unforeseen and often undesirable results. If we are to continue with closer supervision in an attempt to further protect and culture our artificial crop we are headed for more and more artificial propagation methods. This path could conceivably lead to a game farm type of production that would turn out animals of questionable survival or sporting value—and at a prohibitive cost.

**I**N summation it may be said that any area of hunting territory represents a unique problem of plant and animal associations. A balance

must be maintained and it will be peculiar to that locality. The place that the predator occupies is *not* one of the most important factors bearing upon the abundance of game, and any program aimed at killing this or that species wherever or whenever found, is a near-sighted one and is bound to do more damage than good. There is good evidence that predator control sometimes even aids predators in maintaining their own abundance by preventing them from reaching a population peak which Mother Nature would eventually knock down by disease, and other natural factors. The result is possibly the maintenance of a higher average number of animals over a period of years than if they went past a peak and back to a minimum cycle. In this way, predator control may actually benefit the predators.

In most cases a more reasonable program would be to allow such natural sports as fox hunting, cat hunting and crow shooting to suffice as a predator control measure. The role of predators is greatly over-emphasized and their effect on game abundance in general is a very minor one compared to such major factors as pasture management, forest management, fire control, or clean farming practices. All of these are far more effective forces in shaping the game abundance picture on Florida lands than are predator-prey relationships for any or all species.

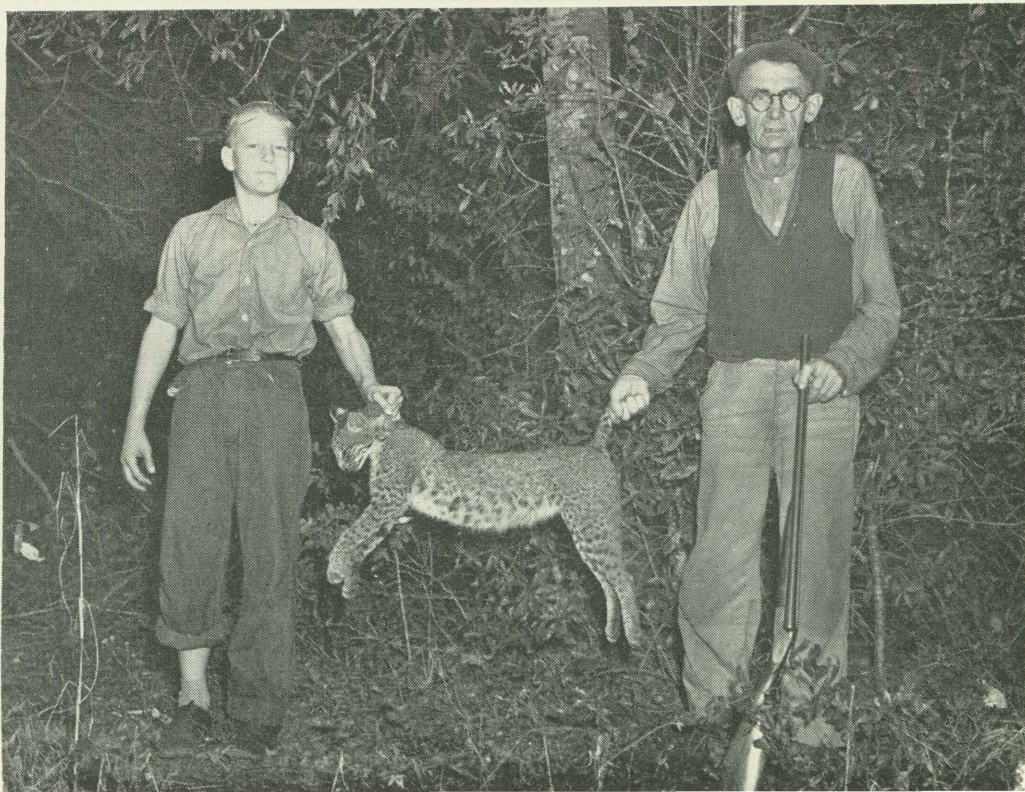


Predator removal enthusiasts occasionally declare war even on the opossum.

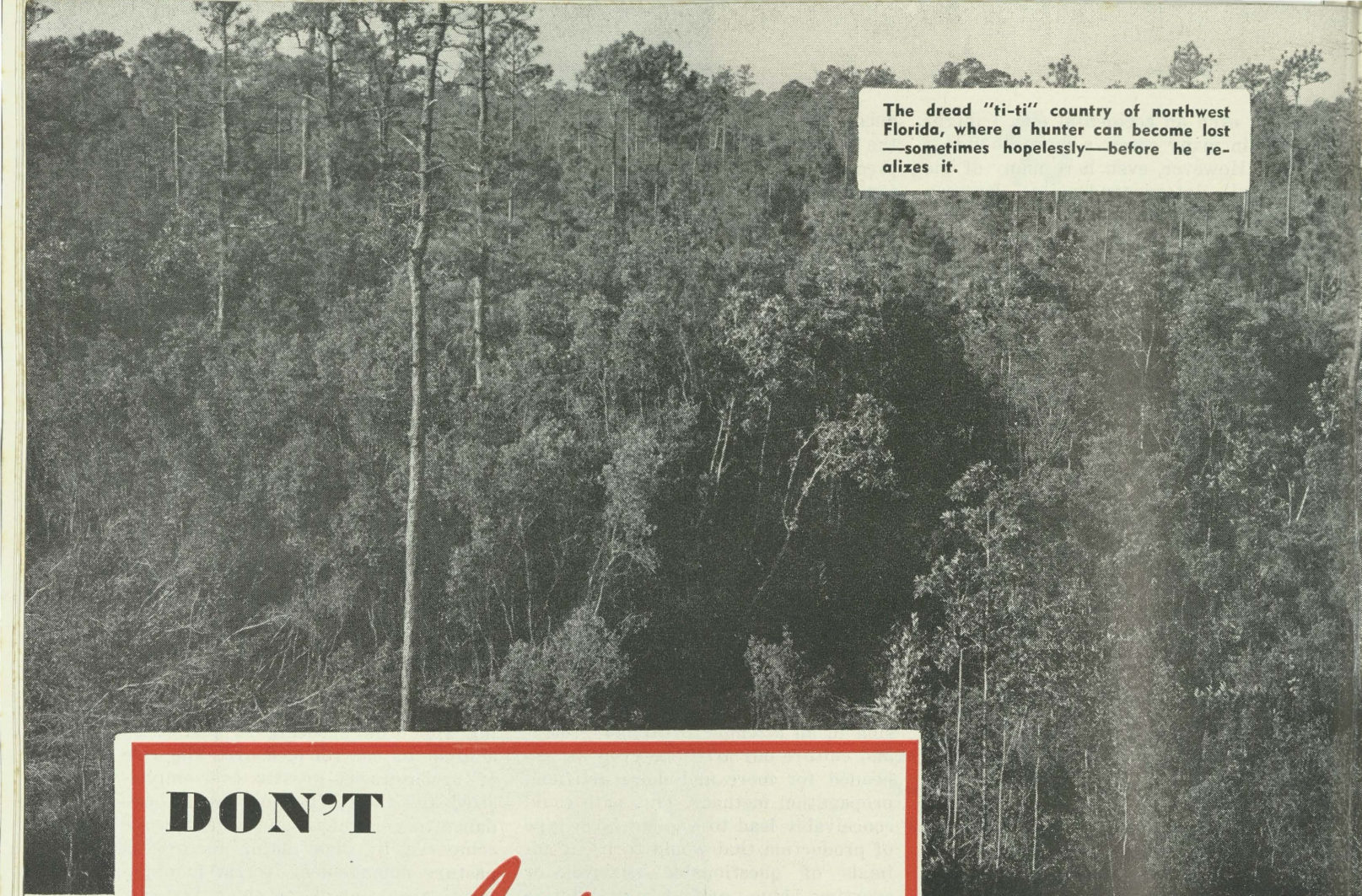
tors at all. By way of illustration, let's consider the fox. Where there is an abundance of his preferred diet, over 90 per cent of the fox's diet is made up of insects and rodents. Less than one per cent of his food fare is game. The same is generally true of the larger owls. However, in an area where the normal food supply is reduced, and a secondary food of quail or other game is available, the game will suffer and some aid in reestablishing a balance may be advisable.

**T**HIRD, let's consider a limited area which is to be managed for the sole purpose of producing an abundant crop of game. This is, of course, an artificial set-up and the crop desired is one far above that which the land normally would pro-

All-out war even on admitted predators such as the bobcat can sometimes do more harm than good.







The dread "ti-ti" country of northwest Florida, where a hunter can become lost—sometimes hopelessly—before he realizes it.

**DON'T**

*Lose*

**YOUR HEAD**

by Andy H. Anderson

**"T**HANK the Lord for that", Covington muttered to himself. The sun had blazed red for a short moment through the dark green pine needles in a final salute to the opening day of the deer hunting season. Covington needed that short glimpse of the sun. For hours a drizzle of rain had been falling. He had long since lost all track of not only the deer he had been stalking, but of his three companions and the direction to camp. Covington was lost. But in that fleeting moment of sunshine he was able to orient himself to the cardinal directions.

How many hunters will find themselves in the same predicament come hunting season is a hard thing to say. It is a foregone conclusion though, that there will be quite a number, who like our friend Covington, become so interested in running down that eight-pointer they will forget to keep a mental running account of directions and distances. The majority of these hunters will, by the use of common sense and woods lore, come to no more harm than having to spend a mildly uncomfortable night in the woods. On the other hand there are some inexperienced nimrods who, at the very

thought of being lost in a forest with night rapidly closing in, will become frightened and panicky. Rejecting the thought of spending the night in the woods they try to push on. As a rule the net result of this operation is exhaustion and complete confusion.

At the first realization of being lost, take it easy. Sit down and try to piece together the day's tramp through the woods. You will begin to remember prominent landmarks that were passed, and tabulate your movements in relation to them. If, like Covington, you realize that you are lost and there is only a short period of daylight left, make up your mind



**If you are a hunter you  
may get lost this season.  
But even if you lose your  
way---**

that you are going to spend the night in the woods. There is nothing there that will harm you nearly as much as a night of aimless wandering through briars, tripping over fallen logs and wading unknown ponds and streams. Save that energy for a planned effort during daylight hours.

**E**VEN in Florida it is going to be cold and with no shelter it will be mighty uncomfortable in a forest wet from an all-day rain. A fire will serve a two-fold purpose if built in the proper place. It will afford warmth against the chill night and will serve as a beacon to anyone that might have taken up the hunt for you. Of course you have your matches in a waterproof container but without paper, dry pine needles or small dry kindling, what chance do you have of building a fire. A hollow tree or stump will be the answer to that. Regardless of the weather there is always enough dry tinder deep inside of these to start a small blaze. After that, wet wood, added sparingly at first, will dry out and burn.

Your choice of the location for the fire will mean a great deal in comfort during the night. Select a site near a dry creek bank, sand ridge or large rock, away from the wind. Any of these will serve as a reflector and tend to keep the heat where it will do the most good.

With headquarters established and your fire started begin to lay in a supply of wood for the night. It will be a good idea to keep the fire blazing high until at least midnight as an aid to possible searchers. Another aid for searchers, of course, is firing signal shots. The usual signal is three shots, with an interval of ten or fifteen seconds between each. These should be given about every half hour or so. It's a big temptation to shoot oftener, especially if you are not answered immediately. But conserve your ammunition. A lot of shooting is unnecessary since it takes a searching party quite awhile to get out of earshot of a rifle report. The main thing is to stay put.

After midnight bank your fire with large logs, stop the rifle signals and settle down for what rest you can. It is doubtful that a searching party would continue after that hour, and tomorrow may be a long day.

**F**INDING your way out of the woods in Florida's vast, level hunting country is much different

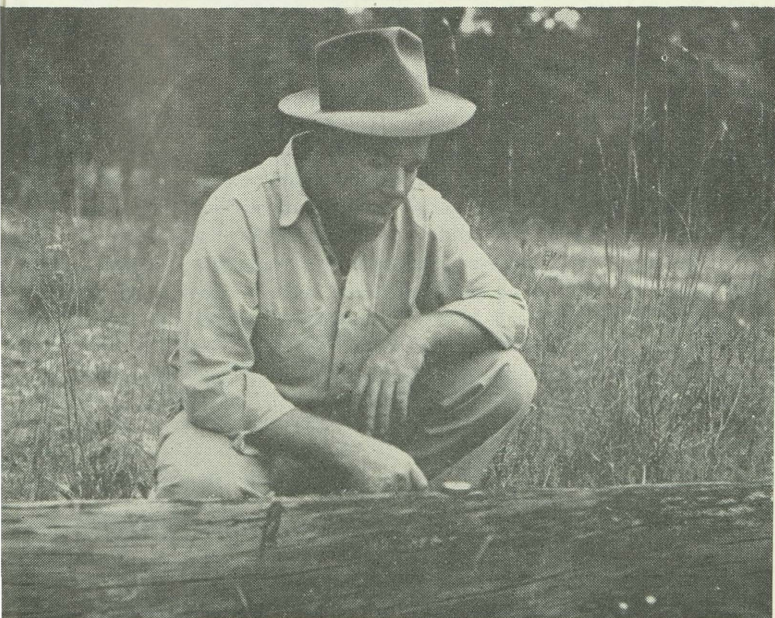
from many other states. There will be no hills or high ridges from which to make a visual survey of the area. The old directional standby of most northern states will not be found operating here either—the trees do not grow moss on the north side of the trunk. However, there are other signs to be found that will aid the hunter.

Ross Summers, hunter and wildlife officer, who is recognized as one of the best woodsmen in the state offered this tip on getting your bearing:

First of all, he says, just keep in mind that all the smaller streams here run south. They may bear a little to east or west but they are trying to go south all the time. Sometimes, especially during dry season, you may not see a stream or creek in a whole day's wandering. In that case keep your eyes open. We have a lot of floods in this part of the country and even though, says Summers, there hasn't been any water around in months you can easily tell where there has been a flood or high water in the past by the collection of drift. The trash, grass, small tree branches, weeds and vines will be collected on the up stream side of trees, fences and other large objects that were in the path of the water. Just figure that the trash is hung up on the north

(Continued Page 16)

The old reliable pocket compass is a valuable ally in the woods. Be sure, though, it is in a level position, with no metallic interference, when read.



To the casual observer this old pile of driftwood means nothing, but the seasoned woodsman can detect around it signs of a long-dry creek bed that leads to deeper water and possible help.





# Only HALF A LOAF

by CLARK VENABLES

The author, a nationally-known figure in wildlife conservation, flashes a warning against possible greedy and short-sighted exploitation of public-owned wildlife lands.

**T**HROUGH many channels of publicity, those men interested in conservation and the various sports related to upland game have learned of the enactment in Congress of Public Law No. 537—better known to readers of the AMERICAN FIELD as the Burke-Wherry bill.

In field trial circles, and in other conservation organizations quite outside our own ranks, the victory has been hailed with fervor and praised in such extravagant terms as to promote the thought that the measure itself is the answer to all our hopes and prayers; that without any further effort on our part it hands us the panacea to all the problems of upland game restoration—problems which have long vexed us and well-nigh defeated us.

How heartening were these extravagant expectations true! How marvelous the boon if the enactment of this great law had actually brought into being all the virtues and end results so rapturously accorded it.

It is high time to stop shouting over a victory half won and get ready to do battle for the hard practicalities involved in the enactment of the law. We have not reached the place to put aside the armor. Nor is this the time to announce that the banquet board has been spread for an unprecedented and certain feast, when actually there is nothing upon the table but half a loaf!

As a matter of honest fact, Public Law No. 537 does nothing more than present us with long-sought opportunities not likely to come again in the history of our nation; it does nothing more than present us with a *great challenge*; it does nothing more than make possible the final determination whether we are actually fitted to make full and intelligent use of a golden opportunity; it does nothing more than return to you your own property, either to handle wisely and well, or to prodigally dissipate in one last orgy of eager, short-sighted slaughter. It can become the crowning glory of restoration activities on a tremendous scale, or it can easily become the sorry spectacle of wanton, thoughtless slaughter.

This measure, when it lay before committees in both the House and the Senate, was pressed for by *many* leading con-

servationists. Let no man think that we of the field trial crowd stood alone at this Armageddon. When the call was uttered, and the purposes of the bill clearly understood, conservation-minded men came rushing from many quarters. They were strong and resolute men—too resolute to be defeated. And it cannot for a moment be denied that all those who took part in the battle saw in the measure the long-sought opportunity to attack the problems of restoration on a scale of sufficient magnitude to offer the hope that some of the balances could be partially restored.

No thinking man among all those who labored for the bill ever thought for a moment that through some magic this measure would bring back “the good old days.” They know that hackneyed phrase to be nothing more than a fond way of remembering uncontrolled butchery. They know, also, that “the good old days” are dead days, as dead as the dodo; and whoever thinks or hopes otherwise is in the position of a frightened boy who whistles up his courage as he hastens by the graveyard.

The Burke-Wherry bill was designed to bring some “good new days,” wherein constructive men may find opportunity to restore life for the value of life itself, and not for the immediacy of the gun. It was designed to establish some great natural incubators, wherein healthy, self-reliant game can be propagated by Nature herself for subsequent trapping and release on other areas where man, having learned his lesson the hard way, has at last given thought, money, and effort to the re-establishment of habitat sufficiently hospitable to maintain life. Furthermore, the bill was designed to provide us with areas sufficient in scope to meet many of the vexing problems that exist in wildlife management. We do not have all the answers, whatever some may tell you. Nor can the answers ever be found on small areas made subject to the varying whims or needs of the landowner. They can only be found on large areas where as many factors as possible can be brought under intelligent control. And this very thought was a moving argument in the passage of the Burke-Wherry bill.

(Reprinted from THE AMERICAN FIELD)



But now that the bill has become law, thoughts entirely foreign to the concepts of its proponents are being rushed into the foreground. And many of them are thoughts based upon improper abuses, rather than upon prudent and proper uses. It must be pointed out with a vigor and a clarity *designed* to alarm that the high purposes back of the Burke-Wherry bill can be easily thwarted by the many who would turn the acquired areas into public shooting grounds. *There lies the real danger, and let no man doubt it!*

Armed with the most spurious arguments, many will arise to contend that the areas gained under this law *should* serve as public shooting grounds. Indeed, they have already arisen and they are already at work. And they offer the easily acceptable argument that under a program of wise management and control the balance can be maintained within the areas, and the hunter still be served.

They know better. They know that no fixed area, however great in size, can stand the pressure of the present day horde of gunners when the word goes out that a good thing has just turned up. They know, as well as you do, that *our entire country* has failed to stand this pressure! They know that the various state game departments have tried through every possible means to keep abreast of the gunner, but it has been an unequal struggle. So unequal, in fact, that the gunner is yelling his head off for public shooting grounds. And the war-time protected areas, which have shown such a tempting increase in wildlife, are certain to be a target for his demands. Already the hue and cry is being lifted that these areas, as they become available, be opened to "limited" gunning.

My brother, the hard and unvarnished truth about this is that gunning gets "limited" when there is nothing left to shoot at! There are not enough wardens in the United States, both Federal and State, to keep watch and ward over the millions eager to catch sight of a flying or fleeing target. And if any of the war-surplus areas in any state shall be opened to one man, then it must be opened to all, both resident and non-resident. The areas simply will not stand it! Nothing will carry a man further than the eager expectation of being able to hunt where game is plentiful.

It is not contended here that the licensed gunner should not have places in which to pursue his sport. Nor is it argued that no effort be made to provide him with some game for the dollars which he digs up for the support of the various game departments. *But it is contended with all possible vigor that he should not be allowed to do his gunning in the incubator!* No more than

we would permit the licensed angler to fish in the hatchery! The latter makes no such unreasonable demands, and the equally unreasonable demands of the former should find no hearing.

One of the most effective half-truths which we will be certain to hear will be the arguments that experiments have shown that the increases in wildlife on protected and well-managed areas will not spill over onto adjoining acres; that the increase in population will reach a saturation point and then become static.

This is perfectly true when the adjoining acres are no more inviting than the top of a billiard table! We must turn our energies and our attention to the universal improvement of habitat, and until we do this all our efforts will be vain. State after state has found that pen-reared birds must have favorable habitat if they are to have the least chance to survive. It is equally true of wild trapped birds. It does them no good to be wild if they cannot find food, water and cover. It is safe to say that all of the active proponents of the Burke-Wherry bill had one central thought in mind: The establishment of natural incubators for the *stocking of other areas where habitat had been improved to that point where wildlife could not only maintain itself, but show normal and natural increases.* If we abandon that idea, we adopt, once and for all, a straight out "Put and Take" program. And that cannot be called conservation nor restoration. Nor is it game management. It is simply "hunter management," coupled with the frustrated hope that appeasement can be furnished at a price!

The Burke-Wherry bill (brief in nature) does not undertake to declare how the transferred properties shall be managed. It is not a game management directive. It assumes that the beneficiaries of the act will develop within themselves the proper techniques. But it does declare that the law was enacted for "wildlife conservation purposes" and you can neither conserve nor restore wildlife by making it the immediate target for those who are too impatient to await the results of a sound, long-time program. Unfortunately, his name is legion and he throws a lot of weight around. So much weight, in fact, that those who labored most for the enactment of Public Law 537 already find themselves somewhat in the position of the osprey whose watchfulness and swift swoop has rewarded him with a fine fish, only to find himself under the harassment of a rapacious eagle determined to make the osprey drop his hard-won feast.

The first State (or States) to fall heir to the benefits of this law must be encouraged

(Continued Page 21)



## THE Ten Commandments OF SAFETY

1. **Treat every gun with the respect due a loaded gun. This is the cardinal rule of gun safety.**
2. **Carry only empty guns, taken down or with the action open, into your automobile, camp and home.**
3. **Always be sure that the barrel and action are clear of obstructions.**
4. **Always carry your gun so that you can control the direction of the muzzle even if you stumble.**
5. **Be sure of your target before you pull the trigger.**
6. **Never point a gun at anything you do not want to shoot.**
7. **Never leave your gun unattended unless you unload it first.**
8. **Never climb a tree or a fence with a loaded gun.**
9. **Never shoot at a flat, hard surface or the surface of the water.**
10. **Do not mix gunpowder and alcohol.**

—Sporting Arms & Ammunition  
Manufacturers' Institute





1948-49

# HUNTING GUIDE

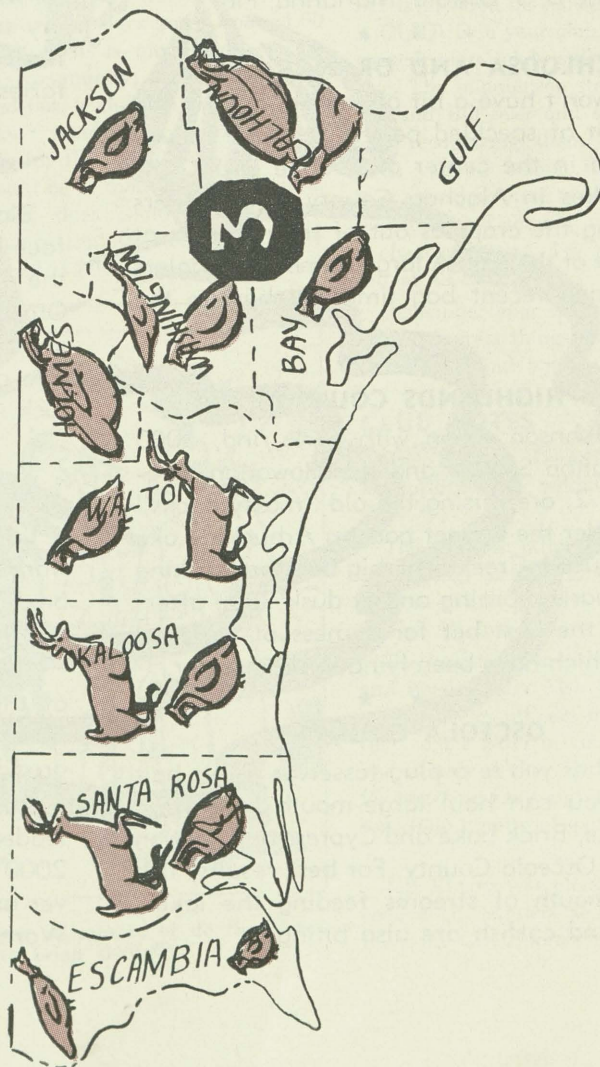
Plentiful



Fair









# They're BITING Here

## SUMTER COUNTY

Early morning anglers are hanging into lunker bass on Panasoffkee Lake, the Withlacoochee River and most of the small lakes in Sumter County. Live shiners are tempting the big bass.

Shell crackers on these lakes are readily biting earthworms from dawn to dark.

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## FLORIDA RIVER

Bream and shellcracker are keeping anglers' corks bobbing on the Dog Slough section of the Florida River in Liberty County. You will have better catches if you fish early in the day. For bait, you can't beat earthworms, catwaba worms and crickets.

Catching bag limits of panfish on the river were: Mr. and Mrs. John Kirkland, Dothan, Ala., Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Smoot, Clayton, Ala., and Judge D. S. Oswald, Marianna, Fla.

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## LOCHLOOSA AND ORANGE LAKES

You won't have a bit of trouble getting the bag limit of speckled perch (crappie) if you drift-fish in the center of Orange and Lochloosa lakes in Alachua County. Live shiners will bring the crappies out of their haunts at any time of the day. A large number of anglers have made recent bag limit catches on the two lakes.

★ ★ ★

## HIGHLANDS COUNTY

The Johnson spoon with pork rind, 2000 plug, Dalton Special and the Hawaiian Wiggler No. 2, are raising the old "mossy backs" from under the bonnet pads in Arbuckle Lake and Arbuckle Creek. The big bass are striking best in early morning and at dusk. Late afternoon is the best bet for a mess of speckled perch, which have been lying in deep water.

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## OSCEOLA COUNTY

Whether you're a plug-tosser or a live bait addict you can haul large-mouth bass from East Lake, Brick Lake and Cypress and Marion lakes in Osceola County. For best results, fish at the mouth of streams feeding the lakes. Bream and catfish are also biting.

## LAKE OKEECHOBEE

The black bass in Lake Okeechobee and connecting streams are just "begging" to be caught. The Johnson Spoon and various top-water plugs are taking large numbers of bass from the grass at the edge of the lake and the mouths of Kissimmee River, Taylor's Creek and other streams and canals.

In some sections of the lake, the bass are striking big live shiners, yellow feathers and silver spoons. Try a Johnson or a Pet 15 spoon in the grassy areas. At the north end of the lake, bass are rising for lures from 2:30 to 5:30 p. m. At the lake's west banks, the fish are hitting best in early morning.

Dave Cocker, Okeechobee, hauled in his limit of bass in two hours at Taylor Creek. A limit catch was made by B. L. Jones of Pahokee, at Nubbing Slough. W. J. "Bill" Hendry snagged six bass with cane pole and pork rind while fishing in one of the lake's tributaries.

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## ORANGE COUNTY

Black bass are splitting the water for surface lures on the west side of John's Lake and the east side of the Butler string of lakes in Orange County. Cane pole fishermen are taking blue gills on worms. Early morning and late afternoon are the best times to try your luck.

★ ★ ★

## LAKE COUNTY

Large-mouth bass and red and blue gill warmouth are handing anglers a rugged time on Lakes Nellie, Sumner, Mule Head, Bliss and Harris in Lake County.

The bass are striking in the grassy areas of the lakes and near the edges of islands. Rock reefs, bars and bonnet pads are the favored haunts of warmouth.

Bass lures you should tie at the end of your leader are the Hawaiian Wiggler, Lucky 13, 2000 plug, Green Gar plug, and Johnson silver and gold spoons with pork rind attached. Warmouth are gobbling lively worms.





# Clubs

By  
SARAH D. ALBERSON

## DEVELOPING A CLUB

**A**RE you sincerely concerned about the future of the natural resources of your community and your state? If so, what have you done about it? You may reply with a question, "What CAN I do about it?" The answer is simple. Join your local sportsmen's club or if there is no club in your community, organize one. Last month in this column we told you how to go about your organization meeting, by gathering together persons interested in hunting, fishing and conservation, to talk over plans to organize. Now that the ice is broken, what next? At your organization meeting you should set the date and place for the general meeting and by all means see that the meeting is publicized as much as possible. Invite the public, and have some good speakers for your first general meeting. The President of your Florida Wildlife Federation; Director of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, The Director of Public Relations, either or all will be glad to speak if you give them enough advance notice.

The temporary chairman named by the organization committee should plan the program in advance so there will be no dull moments. He should explain the purpose of the meeting and invite those attending the first meeting to offer suggestions and give their viewpoints on plans for the club.

A temporary secretary chosen at the organization meeting should take the minutes and record the various suggestions and points of interest for later perusal.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

**I**f is a good idea to get right down to business at the first general meeting and elect officers, consisting of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and a Board

of Directors. These officers must be chosen carefully. They should be, first of all, ardent sportsmen, having the time and initiative to successfully guide the club to success. Remember! A club is only as good as its officers.

The President should immediately appoint a publicity committee. This is one of the most important committees in your club. Get one of your local newspaper reporters in the club and make him Chairman of the Committee. Publicity is an important item to the progress of your club.

The next question to be decided will be the dues. This will have to be decided by the individual club, as circumstances alter cases. In Florida club dues range from \$1.00 to \$100.00. If there is much work to be done in your community; if there is a lake to be cleaned out, a club house to be built and folks don't mind doing a little bit of manual labor for the cause, probably more members would be of more importance than money, so the dues could be less than those of a more sophisticated club. Many clubs have set \$5.00 annually as about

right. This gives the club enough money to pay expenses and keep them out of the red. Others find that their membership is stymied by charging \$5.00 and they have been more successful by having twice the number of members at \$2.50 per year. This is up to you. Of course, you can always raise or reduce the dues when you know how the club is progressing.

## SETTING UP BY-LAWS

**I**F you don't get around to it at the first meeting, at the next one a constitution and by-laws should be adopted. Suggested copies of constitution and by-laws may be had by writing the Florida Wildlife Federation, St. Petersburg.

A membership committee should be appointed and printed application forms ready for first meeting. The Chairman should charge each member with bringing in another new member by the second meeting. Hints for the Chairman: Never forget to introduce the new members and visitors. This is a small item but IMPORTANT. No one likes to be left out, and remember TEAM WORK is what counts in your club. Make every one of your members feel important. Give him a job to do and remember to mention his name sometimes. AVOID A CLIQUE in your club. This one thing has caused more club suicides than anything else. The minute you start appointing Tom, Joe and Bill over and over on committees, and recognizing them above other members, you are asking for trouble. I know, it is true that there are only a few in every club that will actually work—but give them a chance anyway. Try to be impartial and fair at all times.

Remember your sportsmen's club can accomplish great things for conservation, your community and your country.

## CLUB NOTES

The Alachua County Sportsmen's Club has instituted a wildlife law enforcement drive.

The club is offering a \$50 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any persons violating game laws in the Alachua County area.

The organization asked the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission to send more wildlife officers into the county, and they sent a letter of commendation to Marion County Judge D. R. Smith of Ocala for imposing fines and jail sentences on persons found guilty of game law violations.

Jeff Kinard was elected president to succeed P. R. Sanders at a recent meeting of the Lake City Sportsman's Club.



"Are they out of season, or do they know we forgot to bring shells?"



## DON'T LOSE YOUR HEAD

(Continued from Page 9)

side and the clear side is south. To this woodsman, a dry stream bed is just like reading a compass.

A recent contribution to hunting literature, "Shots at Whitetails", by Lawrence R. Koller, contains a chapter on safety in the woods that is well worth a few quotes.

Says Mr. Koller, "... If the hunter leaves his starting point and heads into the woods due west and maintains that course until he is ready to come out, then logically he needs only to reverse his direction to come back to the starting point. However, if he intends to make a wide sweep through new forests and ridges such a simple system fails to be of any help. In this event he will begin his travel by taking a fixed direction to some visible landmark—a high pine tree, an outcropping of rock or something else equally distinctive. Then, when he changes his directional movement, it will be at this easily remembered point; he will strike out in a new line, checking always with his compass for another landmark, continuing this procedure throughout the day's travel. Then, when the sun begins to close off the day, he will retrace his steps in the opposite direction of his incoming path, switching his direction at the familiar landmarks.

"Such a trip requires a keen memory for cataloguing the directions and the landmarks in their proper order. If the direction changes are too varied, the hunter will be wise in not trusting to his memory but will make notes as he travels. Best of all, if he has a topographical map, he can make notes and line of movement on the map and will never be in doubt as to his exact location."

A lot of trouble? Well, if you've ever been lost you'll know it's well worth it. Furthermore, this practice in map-reading and compass use will be valuable to the hunter for the rest of his days. On dull days a good compass may be worth its weight in gold. And on a sunny day, a watch can be made to serve as a compass in a pinch.

To find directions, hold the watch level, point the hour hand in a direct line with the sun then due SOUTH will lie directly between the hour hand and the figure 12.

Knowing you are properly equipped in the woods brings a fine sense of satisfaction and confidence. Know that your weapon and ammunition

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## *Going Out Again*

By B. W. PARTRIDGE

Thank God, the mem'ry will remain,  
Of days of yesteryear;  
And I'll be going out again  
To fields and open air,  
In spite of unabating change,  
And disappointment, too,  
That have combined to disarrange  
The things I used to do.

I can't forget, nor ever will,  
The days I spent with Dad  
In fellowship—not lust to kill—  
When I was but a lad;  
And those that followed through the  
years,  
When I had taller grown—  
The mem'ry floods my eyes with tears—  
Because, those days are gone!

But then, Dad often used to say  
We'd still hunt, over where  
He'd go from earth some happy day,  
The outing to prepare;  
And birds always would surely light  
In fields of golden sedge,  
And we'd use dogs of purest white  
To work from edge to edge.

Our guns would be the finest make,  
Their barrels purest gold;  
And we such outings oft would take  
When I, too, had grown old;  
So, maybe that's the reason why  
A sportsman's flair I claim—  
That, in the wondrous bye and bye  
I'll still hold steady aim.

(All Rights Reserved by the Author)

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will do the job. In addition equip yourself with the following items; map, compass, knife, matches in a waterproof case, a couple of chocolate bars and a belt axe.

Try your best to keep from getting lost, but if you do, *Keep Your Head*. And if you can't work your way out, stay put and wait until help comes.

## HUNTING PROSPECTS

(Continued from Page 5)

hunting prospects in years, and others say the outlook is "as good or better" than last season. In no county do wildlife officers and biologists report any noticeable game slump. Some species—squirrel in particular—apparently aren't too abundant in the district as a whole, but all seem at least to be up to par.

Turkey and quail seem to have shown the greatest gains. In Orange county wildlife officers reported both species are more plentiful than they have been in "many years." In Seminole county better-than-average turkey shooting appears in the offing, and even Lake county has come up with a fair-to-middling crop of gobblers. In the past Lake county has never boasted particular good turkey shooting. The best area for turkey hunters, of course, will continue to be found in St. Johns, Sumter and Orange counties.

The best quail shooting apparently will be centered in Osceola, Lake, Orange, Brevard and Seminole counties. In Seminole one officer predicted the best quail and squirrel hunting since 1941. You'll also find a good supply of bobwhite in Volusia, Citrus and Sumter counties. It won't be so good in St. Johns and sections of Marion county.

The best bets for deer appear to be Orange, Osceola and, of course, the "big scrub" of Marion county. Biologists in the Ocala National Forest report the deer population there is up an estimated 20 per cent this year. Last year more than 300 bucks were taken from the forest in a 30-day controlled hunt.

Like many other sections of the state, the Fifth District is well-stocked with "posted" signs. Nimrods in Osceola, Orange, Marion, Volusia and Seminole are particularly hamstrung by lack of hunting territory.

Bert Butler of Point Washington is the undisputed champion bob cat killer of Walton County. Since March, 1947, Butler and his hounds have accounted for 19 cats. The largest measured four and one-half feet.

A 200-pound deer was killed a few miles north of Palatka when it ran into the path of a trailer truck. The truck was damaged considerably.



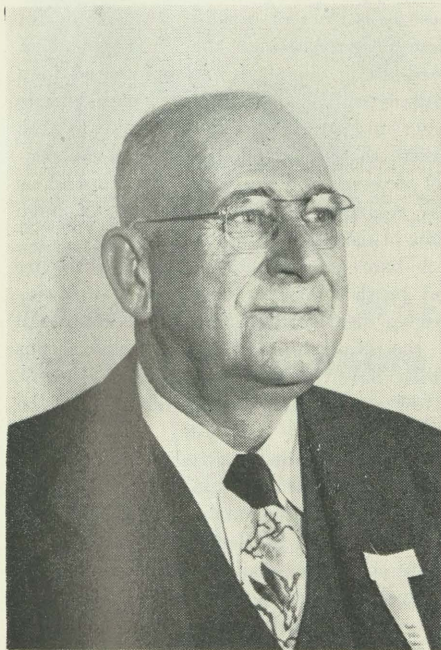
# FLORIDA WILDLIFE

## FEDERATION NOTES

### OFFICERS

President.....Ralph Cooksey, St. Petersburg  
Treasurer.....E. A. Markham, Gulfport

Recording Secretary.....George A. Speer, Sanford  
Executive Secretary.....Mrs. Sara Alberson



W. C. Lindsey, secretary of the Eureka Rod and Gun Club, which became affiliated with the Florida Wildlife Federation at the recent convention in Welaka.

outlined the objectives of the national federation.

Other key speakers were Ben C. Morgan, director of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission; Coleman Newman, the commission's turkey and deer biologist; Claude A. Kelley of Atmore, Ala., and George Averitt of Dora, Ala., both regional directors of the National Wildlife Federation.

A round-table discussion of quail, turkey, deer, squirrels and pheasants was conducted by Earle Frye, chief wildlife biologist of the game commission. A talk was made by William C. Lindsey, executive secretary of the National Crow and Hawk Shooters Association. Lindsey illustrated the talk with a crow and hawk caller.

In the election of officers held at the business session the following were named:

Ed Markham, treasurer; George A. Speer, recording secretary; Ad Cullis, vice president, First District; L. R. Sanders, vice president, Second District; D. R. Bowman, vice president, Third District; Bill Wellman, vice president, Fourth District; and Porter Lansing, vice president, Fifth District.

### Federation Sponsors Conservation Poster Contest In Schools

A total of \$500 in cash prizes with a \$250 first place award will be offered to winners of this year's "Conservation Poster Contest" conducted by the National Wildlife Federation.

The contest is open to students anywhere in the United States from the seventh grade through the last year of high school. The purpose of the contest is to create nationwide interest—particularly among young people—in the need for the restoration and conservation of the nation's natural resources.

Awards will be presented the first week of Spring in conjunction with National Wildlife Restoration Week. However, all entries must be sent to the National Wildlife Federation, Washington 10, D. C., not later than Jan. 15, 1949.

Posters may be done in oil, watercolor, black and white and other media.

### Cooksey Reelected President At Annual Federation Meeting

Ralph G. Cooksey was reelected president of the Florida Wildlife Federation at the organization's annual convention held recently at Forrestwood Sportsman's Lodge in Welaka. Twenty-four other officers, councilmen and delegates were placed in office.

The two-day convention drew a record delegation of sportsmen and conservationists from all corners of the state.

The principal address of the session was delivered by Carl Shoemaker, Washington representative of the National Wildlife Federation. Shoemaker stressed the importance of conservation education in our schools, and



High officials of the federation confer at Welaka. Left to right, standing: Bill Wellman, George Speer, Jr., Ralph Cooksey, E. A. Markham and A. W. Cullis. Seated: D. R. Bowman, L. R. Sanders, Sarah Alberson, Porter Lansing and A. D. Bailey.





Above are the new officers of the Florida Outdoor Writers Association, recently elected at the organization's annual convention at Orange Lodge, Lake Apopka. Seated, from left to right, are R. J. Eastman, Marineland, treasurer; Rube Allyn, St. Petersburg, past-president; Frank J. "Salty" Mallants, Miami, president; Paul Mains, Jacksonville, vice-president; and John Dillon, St. Augustine, Secretary. Standing are the new directors. From left to right: Jack Ardis, Miami; William W. Weeks, Tallahassee; Mrs. Eleanor Allyn, St. Petersburg; Ken Friedman, Jacksonville, and Fred Jones, Lakeland.

## Antler Laws Similar To Florida's Found In a Dozen States

A check of conservation departments throughout the country reveals that 12 states have "antler laws" similar to Florida's.

Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission Director Ben C. Morgan, who made the survey, said many sportsmen's organizations in the state have criticized Florida's new five-inch antler ruling as "impractical and unworkable."

The rule bans the taking of deer with antlers under five inches.

Among the states found to have this type of law were Arkansas, bucks with over six-inch antlers; Georgia, bucks with four-inch antlers; Louisiana, bucks with three-inch antlers; Michigan, bucks with three-inch antlers; Mississippi, bucks with four-inch antlers; Montana, bucks with four-inch antlers; New Jersey, bucks with three-inch antlers; New York, bucks with three-inch antlers; Utah, bucks with five-inch antlers; Vermont, bucks with three-inch antlers. Portions of the states of Virginia and Wisconsin have one-inch and two-inch rulings.

## Morgan, Cooksey Speak At Annual Club Rally

Addresses by Ben C. Morgan, director of the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, and Ralph Cooksey, president of the Florida Wildlife Association, featured the annual rally and barbecue of the Orange County Sportsmen's Association at the Orlando Rod and Gun Club last month.

A varied program of activities was prepared for the festivities by Walter Menges, program chairman. One of the highlights was a fly-rod and bait casting tournament conducted by Barrett Cass, nationally known fly-caster.

A large number of sportsmen participated in two skeet shoots in which quail and turkey shooters competed, and a cash award was presented for the largest fish caught in Orange County on the day of the rally.

The Whoot Owls orchestra, and Guitarist Mickey Evans furnished the entertainment. The barbecue was prepared by Walter (Chief) Prescott.

A group of sportsmen from DeFuniak Springs took the field for a fox hunt recently, and wound up with a wildcat. The captured cat was 46 inches in length.

## Power Right-of-ways Seen As Potential Habitat for Wildlife

Millions of miles of power and telephone line right-of-ways across the length and breadth of America, could be developed into excellent wildlife habitat with mutual benefits to game, sportsmen and the utility corporations, the Wildlife Management Institute believes.

The task of keeping the ground beneath these lines clear of brush is a great one for these firms. Although the development of weed-killing chemicals has eliminated to a great extent the need for large maintenance crews to patrol lines and cut away the growth that flourishes underneath, the control of weeds and brush still is a stupendous task requiring the annual output of huge sums of money.

A bare area, whether cleared with fire and brush hooks, or chemical agents, creates an ideal seed bed for the new growth of the same species of trees and shrubs which have been removed. Consequently, a few years later, the operation must be repeated.

To prevent the encroachment of brush into copelands, farmers in soil conservation districts across the nation have been using a shrub known as *Sericea lespedeza*. The utility companies could use this same plant to excellent advantage wherever it is adaptable. Where the *lespedeza* plant could not be used, other species could be suggested to the corporations by botanists.

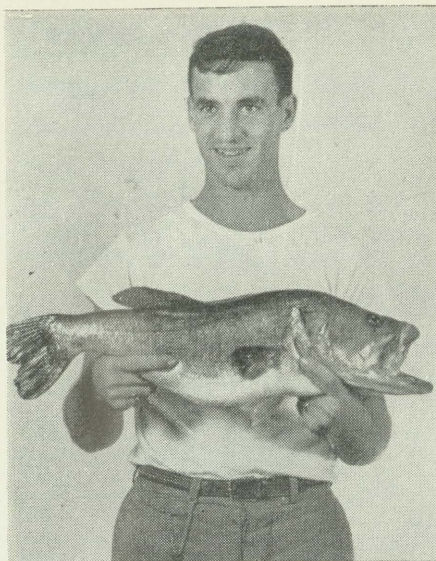
By this method, the power and telephone companies could, in one seeding operation, establish a permanent low cover in the power lanes that would thwart the invasion of brush. Such a program would represent a cost only slightly greater than that required for the maintenance of the lines for a year or two.

The effect of this planting program on wildlife would be tremendous. While *sericea* has little food value for game, it provides excellent cover for quail, rabbits, pheasants and other species. To complete the picture, sportsmen's organizations all over the country could establish food patches of bicolor *lespedeza* on the border of the power lanes. This final operation would create a perfect habitat for wildlife.

### LEESBURG CONTEST STARTS

Leesburg's twenty-third annual National Fresh Water Bass Tournament started November 1. The tournament is sponsored by the Senior and Junior Chambers of Commerce.





Louis G. Elbrodt of Clermont with an eight-pounder taken from Felter Lake. He made the catch with an Old Skipper lure.

## Science Begins War On Lead Poisoning

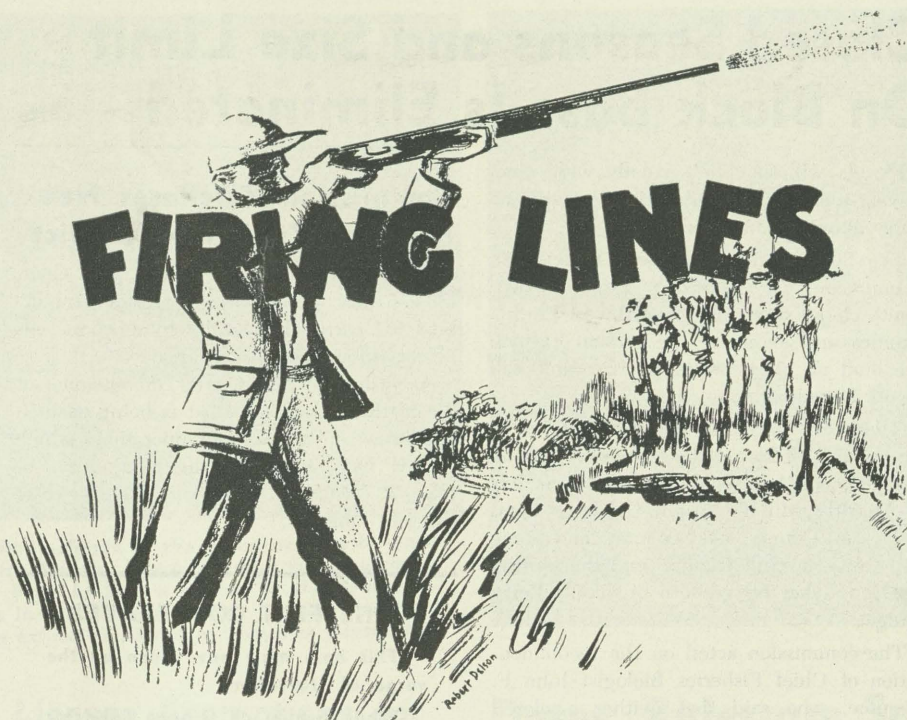
A full-scale attack upon lead poisoning in waterfowl, utilizing all the technical equipment of modern science, was launched recently at the field laboratory of the Illinois Natural History Survey north of Havana.

Cooperating with the Natural History Survey in its research project on wild ducks and geese are the University of Illinois and Olin Industries, Inc., a major manufacturer of sporting arms and ammunition, with headquarters at East Alton, Illinois.

Lead poisoning in wild waterfowl, which results when the birds swallow lead pellets picked up in their feeding in heavily shot areas, has been recognized by biologists for more than half a century, but it remained for greatly diminished habitat and increased numbers of hunters in recent years to place this disease in the category of a real menace to the nation's wildfowl population.

Decision to undertake one of the largest biological investigations ever conducted in this field of game conservation was reached by the two Illinois agencies and the co-operating industry following a severe outbreak of the disease last winter at the Pere Marquette Wildlife Refuge near Grafton, Illinois.

Already set up at the Havana laboratory are pens of domestic Pekin duck being used in a preliminary test of the effect of ingested lead shot upon waterfowl. In later phases of the experiment wild ducks will be used.



## WHICH GUN SHOTS HARDER

"Which gun shoots the harder, long barrel or short?" This question is a constant source of argument among shooters wherever shotguns are fired.

It is generally conceded that a load of shot fired through a 30" barrel will have more velocity than a similar load fired through a 22" barrel, but how much more and what difference it will make in field shooting is the question in usual dispute.

About fifteen years ago a rather extensive set of tests was fired at the Burnside Laboratory of E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Company in which the guns were cut down an inch at a time and the reduction in velocity was  $7\frac{1}{2}$  feet per second per inch of barrel length, and this figure is usually quoted by arms and ammunition companies in reply to inquiries on the subject.

The figures, says Dr. C. S. Cummings, supervisor of ballistics standardization, Remington Arms Company, were determined on the basis of average velocities over a 40 yard range and did not refer to muzzle velocities.

"Since the question is apparently still asked with considerable frequency," writes Dr. Cummings, "we decided to take advantage of recently developed techniques for measuring shotshell muzzle velocities and fire a series of tests

to determine how the shortening of the barrel would affect the velocity of the shot charge at the muzzle.

"The test consisted of firing 12 gauge trap loads (3-1- $\frac{1}{8}$ -8) in a barrel whose original length was 30", cutting the barrel length down in 2" steps to a final length of 22", and measuring the average muzzle velocity at each barrel length.

### NOT MUCH DIFFERENCE

"The results of the test showed that, over this range, from 30" to 22", an average figure of  $6\frac{1}{8}$  f.p.s. per inch can be used. This is in extremely good agreement with the tests originally quoted. It should be pointed out that in a test of this nature, it is only when the barrel has its original length that the choke is intact, and that for the shorter lengths (26" and less) the barrel is in effect a cylinder bore.

"These figures are very interesting to the shooter who likes to dig in and get right at the bottom of things, but the average gunner wants to know how much difference this makes in field shooting leads. The answer is "very little." At 20 yards, which is about the average quail shot, the difference in time of flight of the shot charge from a 30" barrel and a 22" barrel is only .004 seconds.



# Closed Seasons and Size Limit On Black Bass Is Eliminated

Florida will soon be virtually wide open to year-round fresh water fishing, with no worry about minimum size limits.

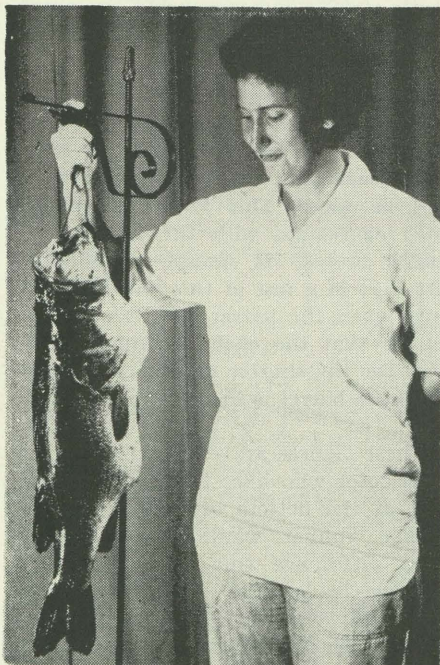
The State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has voted to drop its two-month closed season in 10 northwest Florida counties and eliminate the present 12-inch size limit on black bass. The size limit will go off December 1.

There are only five local exceptions to the opening order. At the insistence of local residents, an April and May ban was left on Merritt's Mill Pond and Ocheesee Pond in Jackson County, Lake Wimico and Stone Mill Creek in Gulf County, and the portion of Dead Lakes lying south of Scott's Ferry Bridge.

The commission acted on the recommendation of Chief Fisheries Biologist John F. Dequine, who said that neither a closed season nor size limit is needed in Florida.

Many of the State's fresh waters, he said, are already seriously overpopulated with fish. Year round fishing and the taking of little fish will help restore a normal population balance, he told the commission.

Dequine, however, advised against a proposal to raise the daily bag limit until further studies have been made.



Mrs. Ivey Strickland of Orange City displays an 11-pound bass taken from the St. Johns River.

## Commission Purchases New Boat for Kissimmee District

The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has purchased an 18-foot motorboat for patrol duty and seining operations in the Kissimmee River area.

According to Ellis Davis, commissioner of the Fifth District, the boat is being used in a number of test seining operations which started Oct. 1, under the supervision of John F. Dequine, the commission's chief fisheries biologist.

## THIS FISH COOPERATED

This bass must have been on the verge of starvation.

While fishing on Orange Lake for big-mouth bass, Mrs. Margaret Partridge of Gainesville, hooked into a whopper. As she attempted to pull the fish in over the side of the boat, the line snapped and the bass fell back into the water.

Her husband, who was fishing on the other side of the boat, immediately got a strike. When he boated his fish he found his wife's hook and line in its mouth. The bass weighed four pounds.

Mr. Partridge credited his wife with an assist.

## Game Commission Lists Four New Sanctuaries

The State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has set up four new game and fish refuges in three Florida Counties.

They are:

A 40,000-acre area in northwest Marion County, closed to deer hunting for five years; 2,000 acres along the Dead River in Walton County, closed to hunting and fishing; a three and one-half mile sanctuary extending along the river from Weekiwachee Springs in Hernando County; and the 16,000-acre Weekiwachee Swamp, also in Hernando County. The latter was closed to hunting only.

This brings to one hundred and twenty the number of sanctuaries maintained by the game and fish commission, Director Ben C. Morgan said.



The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission recently put this new glades buggy into operation in the Fourth Conservation District. It goes over marshy terrain that won't support even a man on foot.

## Hunting Violations Increase In October

Court convictions for violations of wildlife laws totaled 110 during the month of October.

Thirty-one per cent of the convictions were for hunting out of season. This was more than double the number of convictions on the same count during September, which was 16.

The greatest number of court convictions last month were for fishing without a license, which accounted for 34.5 per cent of the total. Violations of 10 other game and fish laws were responsible for the remaining 34.5 per cent of convictions.

There were 33 convictions in the Third District; 27 in the Second; 20 in the Fifth; 19 in the First and 11 in the Fourth.

## Eureka Sportsman's Group Joins Wildlife Federation

W. C. Lindsey, executive secretary of the Eureka Rod and Gun Club, announced the affiliation of his organization with the Florida Wildlife Federation at the federation's annual convention in Welaka.

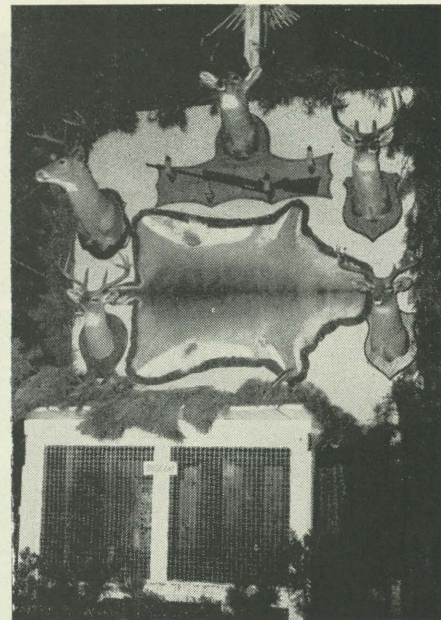
The Eureka club, headed by Fletcher Morgan, state representative from Jacksonville, has a limited membership of 25 renowned sportsmen and conservationists.

Lindsey is also executive secretary of the Crow and Hawk Shooter's Association of America.





An estimated half-million persons visited exhibits of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission at county fairs in North Florida. Above, a group views commission's 50-foot exhibit at Leon County Fair. At left, a section of the Pensacola Fair display, set up by wildlife officers in the Pensacola area. Because dates of two fairs coincided, the regular portable exhibit could not be shown in Pensacola.



## ONLY HALF A LOAF

(Continued from Page 11)

and aided from every possible angle to create a pattern of wise use for the guidance of other states in subsequent transfers. And they must get that encouragement in such force and in such numbers as to offset the clamor of short-sighted men eager for a quick kill.

That now becomes our job. It becomes *your* job. The battle for the passage of the Burke-Wherry bill was actually primary in nature. We were seeking to set the stage for a nation-wide restoration program. Now we face the vitally important secondary stage, and in this battle we must not fail. We dare not fail.

By every influence available to us we must oppose any and all violations of the splendid basic concepts which went into the creation of this great piece of legislation. We must stand firmly on the rock that it was designed to establish large natural incubators for wildlife—not to establish a few short-lived killing grounds. It contemplates a long-time program, and it does so in the full knowledge that we have been a long time traveling the way of the wastrel and the prodigal, but that we have at last brought ourselves down to the husks.

The Burke-Wherry bill sets a tremendous banquet table, but we are the servants charged with the responsibility of bringing it to the great feast possible under its wise provisions.

At present, there stands upon that table only half a loaf.

It is for the thinking sportsmen of America to determine whether we shall have an eventual feast—or continued famine.

## License Exemptions for Disabled Veterans Is Urged by Commissioners

The State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has passed a resolution urging the 1949 legislature to exempt totally disabled veterans from buying hunting and fishing licenses.

The resolution was introduced by Commissioner Cecil M. Webb of Tampa.

"Fishing and hunting is good medicine for many of these veterans," said Webb, "and I think the least thing the State of Florida can do is furnish the medicine free."

Though the game and fish commission is a constitutional agency, its fee and license laws are set by the legislature.

### SWATS COMMUNISM

The State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has joined other forces in taking a swat at Communism.

At its last meeting the commission adopted an oath requiring all wildlife officers and honorary game wardens to swear they were not members of the Communist Party or any other party advocating the "overthrow of the government of the United States."

Formerly, game wardens were not required to take an oath of office.

### GATOR CAUGHT

A nine-foot alligator recently was captured on the Northwest runway of Broward County Airport by James P. Wilson and W. Lee Grubb of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The big "gator" was released in a glades wildlife refuge.

## Dates, Rules are Set For 'Big Scrub' Hunt

Specially licensed hunters will stage their annual invasion of the Ocala National Forest during a 26-day hunt beginning Wednesday, November 24.

The shooting will officially start at one-half hour before sunrise on the opening day, and the cease firing order has been set for sundown, Dec. 19. There will be no hunting on Mondays and Tuesdays.

This year hunters will have to look twice before firing at a deer. To lessen accidental doe kills, a new state ruling bans the taking of buck deer with antlers under five-inches.

However, experts say the antler law won't really cut the number of four-legged targets. There has been at least a 20 per cent increase in the deer population in the forest this year, and an estimated two-thirds of the bucks are legal quarry.

Nimrods may take one legal buck deer, or one bear or one panther. As soon as one of these is killed by a hunter, he must stop hunting for the duration of the hunt.

Other species open to hunting are quail, cat squirrel, fox squirrel, skunk, civet cat, mink, otter, muskrat, raccoon, bobcat, opossum, fox, poisonous snakes, armadillos, rabbits, and alligators over four-feet in length. The taking of wild turkey and marsh hen is prohibited. Hunters will be subject to regular state and federal game laws.

Ocala hunt permits can be obtained at the District Ranger's Office, U. S. Forest Service, Post Office Building, Ocala. Application blanks, details and rules of the hunt can be obtained by mail.





A group of members of the Florida State Fox Hunters Association proudly display their fox hounds at the organization's recent convention in Clermont. Over 200 dogs from nine states were entered in the bench show and field trials. Out-of-state dogs dominated the show, but Florida dogs topped everything in the field.

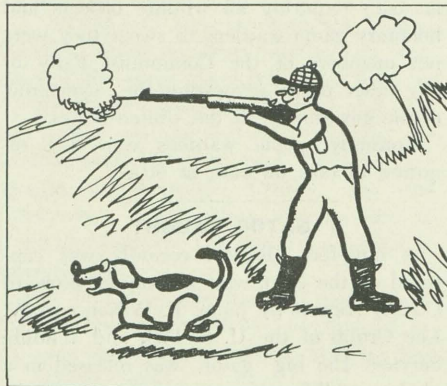
#### WATERFOWL BAG RECORD

SPECIES	DEC. 10-16	DEC. 17-23	DEC. 24-31	JAN. 1-8
Mallard.....				
Gadwall.....				
Pintail.....				
Green-Winged Teal.....				
Blue-Winged Teal.....				
Baldpate or Widgeon.....				
Black.....				
Shoveller.....				
Wood Duck.....				
Redhead.....				
Ring-Neck.....				
Canvas-back.....				
Scaup or Black Head.....				
Buffle-head.....				
Ruddy.....				
Mergansers.....				
Goose.....				
Coot.....				

### Attention, Duck Hunters

Information on the annual take of waterfowl is urgently needed by biologists of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. If you are a duck hunter please clip the form at the left, fill it out week by week and at the end of the season mail it to E. B. Chamberlain, Wildlife Biologist, Box 6026, Station 6, Orlando, Florida. This is important, whether you hunt one day or every day. Sending in an accurate bag record makes a real contribution toward improving your sport.

### BERTRAM



## Waterfowl and Dove Hunters Will Start Firing In December

With the migratory waterfowl season opening December 10, and the starting gun on dove season set to go off December 18, hunters in all parts of the state are getting ready to head for the bilnds and cornfields.

Hunters may take duck, geese and coot from noon on the opening day until January 8. Dove season will officially start at noon on the opening day and will continue to January 31. Waterfowl may be taken daily from one-half hour before sunrise to one hour before sunset. Dove hunting is permitted from noon until sunset.

Hunting will be permitted every day during the open seasons, including holidays.

The hunter's limit is four duck, one goose, 15 coot and 10 dove. The open dove dates pertain to all Florida counties with the exception of Dade, Broward and Monroe, where the season ended October 31.

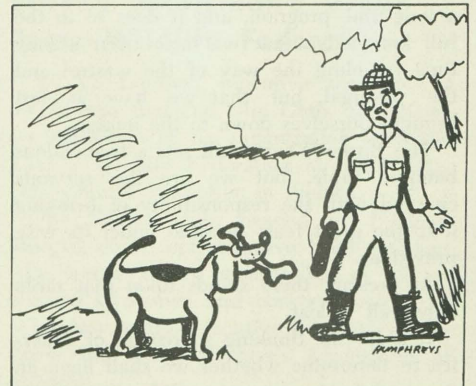
Magazines of shotguns must be limited by plug to three-shell capacity. The hunter is prohibited to shoot birds over baited areas; use artificial light or fire; use a power boat or a craft under sail; engage in the sale of game, and be in possession of more than two days' limit of duck, and one day's limit of geese, coot and dove.

### National Publication Features Upland Birds

*Holiday* magazine takes a trip through the brushlands and tidelands of the U. S. this month to give bird hunters a preview of the season's yield.

Forty-four photos in color show the ring necked pheasant, American woodcock, ruffed grouse, bobwhite quail and the wild turkey in natural habitat, mounted for display and on the table ready for eating.

by Humphreys







FIRST **SEE** STRAIGHT  
THEN SHOOT STRAIGHT

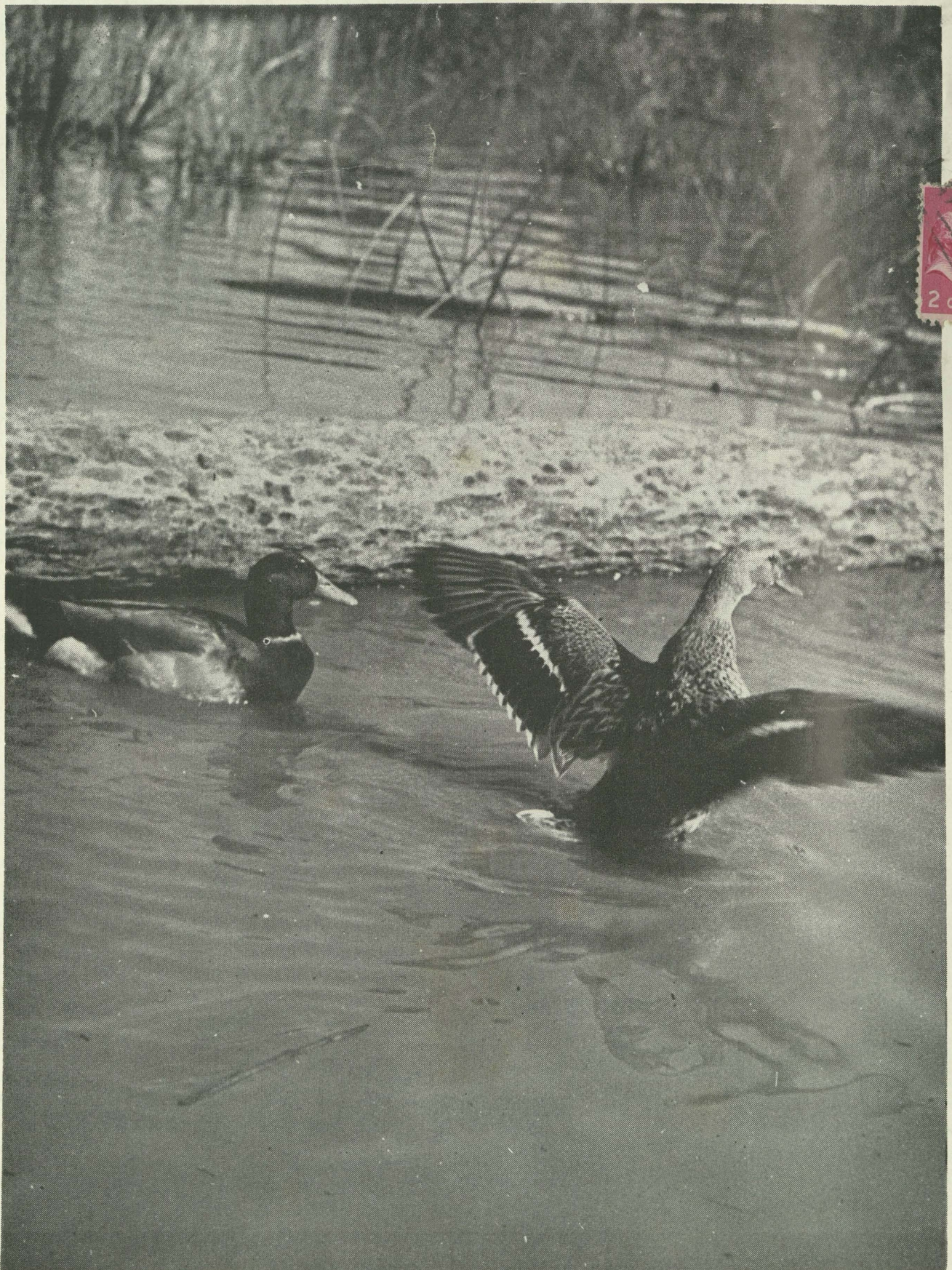
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*Be sure you see your target before you pull the trigger!*

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The Library  
State Capitol  
Tallahassee, Florida



... THE TAKE-OFF